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FRANCIS MARION WOOLARD

BORN JANUARY 29, 1835. DIED FEBRUARY 29, 1916.

Francis M. Woolard was born Jan. 29, 1835, near the village of Mulberry Grove in Bond County, Ill. He attended the Academy in Greenville; McKendree College, in Lebanon, and later taught school for three years. He was deputy clerk in Vandalia; was six years a circuit preacher and four years superintendent of schools in Wayne county.

Mr. Woolard was married November 9, 1859, to Miss Margaret Crews, daughter of William J. Crews of Palestine, Ill., and to them were born three children, Charles W., Sept. 22, 1863, who was accidentally killed in Springfield, Ill., Sept. 18, 1880. William F., born in Lawrence County, March 5, 1865, and Mary A., born in Fairfield, March 30, 1871, now the wife of Charles E. Wilson, of Wauwatosa, Wis., with whom Mr. Woolard had for many years made his home, and where he died February 29, 1916. His only surviving son, W. F. Woolard, is chief clerk in the United States patent office at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Woolard was much interested in State history and in the work of the State Historical Society. In 1908 he presented an exhaustive address at the annual meeting of the Society on the route taken by George Rogers Clark and his little army across the State of Illinois from Kaskaskia to Vincennes. This much disputed and interesting historical point was studied carefully by Mr. Woolard and he acquired much information which, except in his address published in the Transactions of the Historical Society, is not available to students.

Mr. Woolard was a great friend and admirer of the late Gen. John M. Palmer, although they did not always agree on questions of policies or politics. He wrote many most interesting letters to the Secretary of the Historical Society in some of which he related anecdotes of his association with General Palmer and other prominent men of his day.

The remains of Mr. Woolard were taken to his old home at Fairfield, Ill., where he was buried beside his wife.